



United Advocates for Children of California
1401 El Camino Avenue, Suite 340
Sacramento, CA 95815-2700
(916) 643-1530 direct ☎ (866) 807-7687 toll free
(916) 643-1592 fax 📠 www.uacc4families.org

California Children's System of Care Funding

Presenter:

Pam Hawkins
Advocacy Program Director
United Advocates for Children of California

What is Children's System of Care

- The system of care concept is a framework. The concept of a system of care was never intended to be a “model”.
- Systems of care change and evolve over time.
- Building Systems of Care is a developmental process.

Stroul, B. (2002) Systems of care: A framework for system reform in children's mental health (Issue Brief). Washington DC: Georgetown University Child Development Center, National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health.

Children's System of Care Approach

- The mental health service system is driven by the needs and preferences of the child and family, using a strength-based approach.
- Family involvement is integrated into all aspects of service planning and delivery.
- The locus and management of services are built on multi-agency collaboration and grounded in a strong community base.
- A broad array of services and supports is provided in an individualized, flexible, family-driven, coordinated manner and emphasizes treatment in the least restrictive, most appropriate setting.
- The services offered, the agencies participating, and the programs generated are responsive to the cultural context and characteristics of the populations that are served.

Center for Mental Health Services. (1998). Hallmarks of the system of care approach. In Annual report to congress on the evaluation of the comprehensive community mental health services for children and their families program. Atlanta, GA. Macro International, Inc.



Children's System of Care has Demonstrated Success

- Results in significant improvements in children's functioning ability
- Results in avoidance of institutional placements.
- Results in stable living environments
- Improved school attendance and performance
- Results in substantial cost savings.

The California System of Care Model Evaluation Project; University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), California State Department of Mental Health (2001)



Family Member's of Children and Youth Support the MHSA

- Family members participated in drafting the MHSA to ensure the framework of the MHSA included Children's System of Care as a service delivery framework for children and youth. (MHSA, Section 5, Article 11, 5878.1 (a))
- Family members participated in the campaign and passage of the MHSA based on the promise of continued Children's System of Care in California.

The MHSA Mandates the Restoration of Children's System of Care Funding

- Section 15 of the MHSA provides:
 - The funding established pursuant to this act shall be utilized to expand mental health services. These funds shall not be used to supplant existing state or county funds utilized to provide mental health services. **The state shall continue to provide financial support for mental health programs with not less than the same entitlements, amounts of allocations from the General fund and formula distributions of dedicated funds as provided in the last fiscal year which ended prior to the effective date of this act.**

Recommendations from Family Members of Children and Youth for MHSOAC Commissioners

- MHSOAC Commissioners should require the reinstatement of the \$20 million state general CSOC funds.
- State general CSOC funds were deleted in the 2004-05 budget, and have not been reinstated to date.
- Provisions in the MHSA require that all funds be maintained at the 2003-04 levels thereby requiring the state to restore the \$20 million in CSOC funding.